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ABSTRACT 181

Title: The Value of Local Wisdom Transfer for the Elderly People

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Abstract

Background: Like other disciplines that focus on people and society, occupational science, which studies human occupation in all its guises, can inform practitioners by developing a richer understanding of the phenomena under inquiry. Furthermore, practitioners need to be able to interpret meaningful occupations from the perspective of individual clients. Through engaging in The Grandparents Teach the Youth Project, the elderly have the opportunity to demonstrate how well they fulfill their own and others' expectations of the roles and abilities they hold in the community.

Objective: This study aimed to explore the value of local wisdom transfer for the elderly in activities of The Grandparents Teach the Youth Project in Mae Wang district, Chiang Mai province, Thailand.

Method: The qualitative research approach was used, in which nine elderly people were given in-depth interviews individually. Narrative data were analyzed by using the content analysis method.

Result: The results found that the elderly valued the transference of local wisdom to youth through this project. This was illustrated by four themes; the roles of the elderly; inheritance of local wisdom; increase of self value; and good relationships among the elderly and youth. Additionally, the elderly revealed that being a part of this project had physical, mental and social benefits such as active aging and longevity. Each of these themes is rich with meaning and cultural reflection.

Conclusion: The findings show a variety of meanings that come from the older participants themselves. Regarding this, any project that runs in a community must serve the needs and values of the target population, and also link engagement with health in a meaningful occupation.